

**MONTANA
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES**

**MACo Executive Committee
May 28, 2008
Conference Call
3:00 p.m.**

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Present: Cynthia Johnson, President; Mike McGinley, 1st VP; John Prinkki, Past President; Allan Underdal, Fiscal Officer; Greg Chilcott, Urban Representative; Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director; Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director; Senator Jim Peterson; Miles Watts and Doug Young, Montana State University; Linda Stoll, Area Agencies on Aging.

1) Project 2030

Harold informed the Committee that there have been new developments regarding the study of aging services since the March 25 conference call.

Senator Peterson informed the Committee that concern has been expressed by members of the Legislative Finance and Revenue and Transportation Committees regarding the use of private funds to do the survey. Additionally, the Department of Revenue and the Legislative Fiscal Division reported that they do not have time to dedicate staff or resources.

Senator Williams has submitted a bill draft requesting a Legislative appropriation to conduct the study. Under this scenario, the study would be conducted in the 2009 interim and no action would be potentially taken until 2010 or 2011. Senator Peterson would like to continue to pursue the study independently of the Legislature. He reported that he has received commitments of \$15,000 towards the \$20,000 fundraising goal. He is in the process of contacting the parties that have made financial commitments to reaffirm their continued support. He is asking MACo to reaffirm their financial commitment to conduct the study.

Linda Stoll informed the Committee that we are on a "collision course" with seniors. Most of the recent school mill levies failed. Urban counties have a higher than average aging population.


Myles Watts reported how the study would be conducted by looking at demographics by county, and projecting how they would change by 2030, and the resulting impact on local services such as schools, health, corrections, etc. Even though the Department of Revenue has expressed they are not interested in assisting in the data collection, MSU has access to a considerable amount of the information such as income taxes by age, etc., and feel they can calculate state and federal income tax information. The funding will cover travel expenses and staff support. Myles and Doug Young will donate their time and efforts.

Director Blattie asked what we will gain if we proceed without the support of the Legislature. Senator Peterson responded that we need to evaluate what the demographics mean, raise the awareness of long term impacts, and motivate the Legislature to move towards addressing the issue sooner than later.

Greg Chilcott moved and Mike McGinley seconded to affirm the \$2,500 commitment from MACo to support the study of demographics as proposed by Senator Peterson. Motion carried. Director Blattie noted that he had received a proxy from Carl Seilstad in support of the motion.

There being no further business, the conference call concluded at 3:45 p.m.

Approved this 26th day of June 2008


Cynthia Johnson, President


L. Harold Blattie, Secretary